

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing a foreign financial transaction payment to a foreign financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the method comprising:

receiving, in one or more computer processors at a Receiver Financial Institution, a single authorizing foreign financial transaction payment instruction from a Client Bank over a computer network in a format associated with a domestic settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions that provides guaranteed transaction self-funding of the foreign financial transaction payment to the Receiver Financial Institution, said guaranteed transaction self-funding ensuring against ~~any~~ deficiencies in the self-funding;

analyzing, by the one or more computer processors, the received single authorizing foreign financial transaction payment instruction, wherein said analyzing comprises identifying any necessary intermediary and processing financial institutions required to process the foreign financial transaction payment to the foreign financial transaction beneficiary; and

responsive to said analyzing, generating, in the one or more computer processors, foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in the foreign country and transmitting the foreign financial transaction payment instructions over the computer network, the foreign financial transaction payment instructions including data in a funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said guaranteed, self-funding of the foreign financial transaction payment comprises both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank being members of the domestic settlement funds transfer system in which said members are required to: (1) have funds for the foreign financial transaction payment available in the domestic settlement funds transfer

system, and (2) settle transactions daily initiated using the domestic settlement funds transfer system,

wherein said ~~any~~ deficiencies in said self-funding of the foreign financial transaction payment are prevented by domestic settlement funds transfer system insurance procedures of a central banking authority that controls the domestic settlement funds transfer system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the domestic settlement funds transfer system comprises a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers over the computer network,

wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution is compatible with a world-wide financial messaging network interfaced with the computer network and comprising standardized messaging services and interface software running in the one or more computer processors that initiates international payments.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions comply with specifications of SWIFT MT 103.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Client Bank is a domestic bank.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions are received via a network interface with the domestic settlement funds transfer system, said network interface being configured to provide access to a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the foreign financial transaction payment instructions to the at least one financial institution.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a branch of the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a non-Federal Reserve Bank electronic payments system.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers,

wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a correspondent bank that is connected to the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions via a world-wide financial messaging network comprising standardized messaging services and interface software used to initiate international payments, the correspondent bank handling business in a particular geographic area.

13. (Currently amended) A system for processing a foreign financial transaction payment to a financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the system comprising:

a computer network interface at a Receiver Financial Institution configured to receive a single authorizing foreign payment instruction from a Client Bank in a format associated with a domestic settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions and that provides guaranteed transaction self-funding of the foreign financial transaction payment to the Receiver Financial Institution, said guaranteed transaction self-funding ensuring against any deficiencies in the self-funding; and

at least one processor including software for analyzing the received single authorizing foreign payment instruction, wherein said analyzing comprises identifying any necessary intermediary and processing financial institutions required to process the foreign financial

transaction payment to the foreign financial transaction beneficiary and, in response to said analyzing, generating foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in a foreign country, the foreign financial transaction payment instructions including data in a domestic funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said self-funding of the foreign transaction comprises both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank being members of the domestic settlement funds transfer system in which said members are required to: (1) have funds for the foreign financial transaction payment available in the domestic settlement funds transfer system, and (2) settle transactions daily that are initiated using the domestic settlement funds transfer system, and

wherein said ~~any~~ deficiencies in said self-funding of the foreign financial transaction payment funding amounts are prevented by domestic settlement funds transfer system insurance procedures of a central banking authority that controls the domestic settlement funds transfer system.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the domestic settlement funds transfer system comprises a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers,

wherein the single authorizing foreign payment instruction received from the client bank cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the funds transfer messaging service message format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution is compatible with a world-wide financial messaging network comprising standardized messaging services and interface software that initiates international payments.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions comply with specifications of SWIFT MT 103.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the Client Bank is a domestic bank.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the single authorizing foreign payment instruction received from the client bank cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the interface is compliant with requirements of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one processor initiates transmission of the foreign financial transaction payment instructions to the at least one financial institution.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a branch of the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a non-Federal Reserve Bank electronic payments system.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a correspondent bank that is connected to the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions via a world-wide financial messaging network,

wherein the world-wide financial messaging network comprises standardized messaging services and interface software running in the at least one processor that initiates international payments, the correspondent bank handling business in a particular geographic area.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing a foreign payment to a financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the method comprising, in the order indicated:

(a) receiving, in a computer system at a Receiver Financial Institution, a single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction from a Client Bank in a format associated with a domestic settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions and that provides guaranteed transaction self-funding of the foreign payment to the Receiver Financial Institution, said guaranteed transaction self-funding ensuring against any deficiencies in the self-funding;

(b) ensuring compliance of the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction with one or more government requirements;

(c) if the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction is compliant with the one or more government requirements, ensuring, via the computer system, that any required data fields in the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction meets all data requirements of the domestic settlement funds transfer system, otherwise, ending processing of the funds transfer instruction;

(d) if the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction meets said data requirements, crediting an account of the client bank established for foreign payments with an amount associated with the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction, otherwise, ending processing of the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instruction and generating an error message in response thereto;

(e) after steps (c) and (d) have been carried out and, responsive to the single authorizing foreign funds transfer instructions meeting said data requirements, generating, in the computer system, foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in a foreign country, said generating comprising identifying any necessary intermediary and processing financial institutions required to process the foreign financial transaction payment instructions; and

(f) transmitting the foreign financial payment instructions over a computer network, the foreign financial payment instructions including data in a domestic funds transfer messaging

service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said domestic settlement funds transfer system requires that both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank are members of the domestic settlement funds transfer system in which said members are required to: (1) have funds for the foreign payment available in the domestic settlement funds transfer system, and (2) settle foreign transactions daily that are initiated using the system, and wherein said ~~any~~ deficiencies in foreign funding amounts are prevented by domestic settlement funds transfer system insurance procedures of a central banking authority that controls the domestic settlement funds transfer system.

26. (Canceled).